

## anorama

Thursday, January 28, 1988

642-219

### G-M Residents Use York County Library

by Bill Nachman

Approximately 17 percent of the more than 11,000 people using the York County Public Library during a six-week check last fall were from Gloucester County, librarian Beverly Dudley said.

Mrs. Dudley said the survey, where individuals entering the library were asked where they lived by the Zip Code, was principally designed to gather information for a study to show whether York County may need to build a library branch in the Tabb or Grafton area, south of the present facility on Route 17.

To the surprise of the library staff, Mrs. Dudley said, the survey revealed that about 14 percent of those entering the York library between Oct. 20-Nov. 25 had either Gloucester C.H. or Gloucester Point Zip Codes. Another three percent had other Gloucester County zips, she said, and about 0.5 percent had a Mathews County Zip.

Middle Peninsula residents are not charged a fee to use the York library.

Mrs. Dudley said that various alternatives have been discussed since the library staff is becoming inadequate to handle an increasingly large membership roster that now boasts about 20,000 people.

Reviewing the survey, Mrs. Dudley said, she learned that "a significant amount of business is coming from Gloucester." She said she had "no idea that the use by Gloucester residents had grown that high."

Many of the Gloucester residents using the York library are high school students doing research projects, Mrs. Dudley said.

Before providing the specifics, Mrs. Dudley simply stated "yes, yes, yes" when asked if many Gloucester residents used that facility.

In Gloucester, residents can use the Gloucester Library in the Court House and the Gloucester Library Point Branch in Tidemill Center. Mathews is served by the Mathews Memorial Library.

# Men returning to crafts tradition; show at library

by Beth Melsner  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN -- In days of yore, "arts and crafts" conjured up the image of men doing a man's job.

"Artisans" and "craftsmen" wove the fabrics and made the hats and shoes that men, women and children wore. They beat the precious metals into jewelry and forged the equipment mankind needed for its horses and beasts of burden.

Those days are gone, along with the social and economic hierarchy that dominated the world of artisans and craftsmen. Nowadays "arts and crafts" conjures up an image of needlework, decoupage, tole painting, papercutting -- and women.

Today we buy what we need to wear and use from a store. We indulge in arts and crafts because the doing of them, as well as the fin-

ished product, enrich our lives. Handmade arts and crafts provide the artisan an opportunity to relax while creating a product to be kept or given as a valued gift. Professional craftsmen have found numerous lucrative markets available as the popularity of handmade items continues to grow.

Whether vocation or hobby, "arts and crafts" today has a huge following. And since that famous day when professional football player Roosevelt Grier announced that he relaxed by doing needlepoint, more men have joined the ranks. Arts and crafts, once for men only, then for women only, is now for everyone.

To prove the point, the York County Public Library is hosting a "men only" craft show from 10am to 4pm Saturday, Feb. 13. The exhibit will feature hobbies and crafts of almost 20 participants, and viewers will be able to see some of

the men working on their crafts.

At the bottom of the flyer announcing the show, someone handwrote, "Ladies: Come see what the men can do!" Here's who, and what, viewers will find:

Richard Chambers, plastic models; Leland Kennedy, ships; Eric Sheriff, woodworking; Brandt Drymon, Lionel trains; Erwin A. Fox, wooden toys; Gary Holt, bird carving; Alexander Cipriano, wood refinishing; Frank Edgcomb, N-gauge railroad; Robert Belvin, children's toys and wooden furniture; Jim Orband, needlework; David Boyd, jewelry; B.V. Back, stamps; Lewis Noble, woodcrafts; John Ogle and Carl Westbrook, working together on woodcrafts and rocking horses; James Day, handmade clocks; Raymond Saunders, woodcrafts; Bill Johnson, woodcrafts; and Ross McComey, woodcrafts.



Erwin Fox fits a last piece into a wooden train set.

York Town Crier photo by Dick Ivy

## *His hobby requires patience, pine and Elmer's glue*

by Dick Ivy  
York Town Crier

SEAFORD — Even after three heart attacks, Erwin A. Fox Jr., 68, refuses to be idle.

Fox, of Chisman's Point Road, has been making wooden toy trains for the past month in his garage workshop. He'll display his skills at the Men's Craft Show at the York County Public Library this Saturday, Feb. 13, between 10am and 4pm.

About 20 men have signed up to show their work, including another wood toy maker and a wood furniture maker.

Among Fox's pine wood-grained toys are sturdy train cars and engines, bulldozers, cranes, steam-rollers, Mississippi sternwheelers and road scrapers.

"I showed last year at York High School," Fox says. "Then I had my bypass operation in February, and

decided to increase the amount of wood items I did.

"About four years ago, I wanted something to do during the winter when my bees are clustering just to keep warm." Fox retired from Newport News Shipbuilding as supervisor of steel storage, and since then has been caring for 17 to 20 beehives for honey production in warm weather.

The first wheeled toys he made were for his three grandchildren, all boys, and his daughters-in-law. His production line that year included 8-inch long Model A's, "The General" engine and sternwheelers.

To compensate for a hobby that filled his clothes with sawdust, for his wife Katherine he created the engine and five railcars of the Sussex-Surry Railway from pictures in "The Comp'ny," a book about the local railroad. Katherine Fox had ridden on the line when she was

young.

"I make about 30 pieces a winter now and sell many of them," he says -- it helps pay for his electricity. "I'm interested in making toys, and enjoy doing it. I like to play with wood." He gets his wood from the shipyard wood dump.

It is a hobby that requires patience. Fox cuts about 50 to 75 wheels for trains at one time with a circular hole saw. With classical or upbeat popular music playing on the radio in the background and a potbellied stove producing a steady quiet warmth, he shapes "steam tanks" with the woodgrain. He makes two or three before proceeding to another pattern. He puts the pieces together with Elmer's carpenter's wood glue.

Busy as he is, when the weather warms, he'll move from the toyshop back outdoors to tend to his bees.



# People power built a library

by Virginia Gabriele  
York Town Crier

YORKTOWN -- York County's library has always been the story of people power -- people willing to devote time and energy to seeing a dream realized.

It was only 20 years ago that the York County Volunteer Association launched the library with 4,000 donated volumes (half of them Reader's Digest condensed books) in a rented house in Grafton.

Volunteer efforts kept the library alive and growing during its early years, and by 1978 county support had grown enough so that the library met state standards for size, books and staff and therefore qualified for state aid.

The next few years found the library splitting the seams of its Grafton Shopping Center storefront location. Books and patrons continued to multiply. But the librarians managed to provide service with a smile despite the cramped quarters.

When the crowding got too bad, it was again the volunteers who came to the rescue. Unable to persuade the county to build a new library building, the library board and the Friends of the Library put their case to the public in 1981. First they secured enough signatures to put a bond referendum for a new library on the November 1981 election ballot. Then they launched their own campaign, all with volunteer workers and funds, to secure

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York County outgrew its old library in the Grafton Shopping Center; it was stuffed with books, tables, chairs and people.

# Volunteers got library built

--from preceding page

passage of the \$900,000 referendum.

Land for the library was donated by the late Leslie O'Hara on Route 17 near Edgehill and soon the 11,900-square-foot, one-story brick building became a reality.

It was with great pride that the library opened its doors to the public in September 1984.

Old patrons flocked to its doors, and so did many who had never been near the old storefront facility. And now there are times on weekends and Monday evenings when even the new facility is crowded.

Librarian Beverly Dudley finds success breeds its own problems.

"In the old place, people didn't expect much and were pleased with any service. . . They just selected their books and left," said Mrs. Dudley. She has been head librarian since 1969, when the county agreed to pay her babysitting fees.

"Now people expect a decent level of service. . . They're using the library more." That means more staff time -- time to answer questions, locate magazines, resolve problems with the copier and the computer, and deal with all the other questions and problems people using a library have.

"I'm happy we're filling a need. That's what we're here for," said Mrs. Dudley in a way that indicated perhaps some of the fun of the operation was left behind in Grafton.

Because so much staff time is devoted to dealing with the public, book shelving often falls behind. Mrs. Dudley has already requested funds for two ways to deal with the problem -- automation and more staff.

Automation won't speed up the checkout process, but it would get the returned books back on the shelves a lot faster. A wave of a light wand would check in a book. Now librarians have to sort through boxes of cards to find the right card to put in the book, and if the return date is missing, the time needed to get the book back to the shelf multiplies.

The library's collection is already

## York County Public Library

	77-78	86-87
Volumes.....	14,000	43,000
Borrowers.....	10,500	27,571
Circulation.....	65,519	184,097
Periodicals.....	5	120
Hours.....	40	63

recorded on a computer database, so part of the automation is already done. Mrs. Dudley said automation would also help in cataloguing new books, handling reserve requests and tracking down overdue books.

Although the library has always relied on volunteers, "volunteers aren't under an obligation to show up," Mrs. Dudley said. She is seeking more staff to handle day-to-day library operations, so that volunteers can be used for "non-essential operations and more special projects."

The librarian has also submitted a request for a storefront facility in the rapidly growing Tabb area. The storefront would be used for simple reference and pleasure reading, with all the processing done at the main library.

"With the number of homes being built there and as hard as it is to travel on Route 17, we feel a new facility is needed," Mrs. Dudley said.

And soon the library must think about expanding the main facility (Mrs. Dudley has already asked for funds to expand the frequently overcrowded parking lot). The building was designed for 50,000 volumes and the book collection is already at 43,000, with 3,000 to 4,000 books added each year. Room for future expansion is available at the rear of the building.

Also crowded is the meeting room. It is in such demand "it's sometimes tricky to get one group out and another one in," Mrs. Dudley said.

"We could add some shelving, but we don't want to detract from the attractiveness of the building. People seem so proud of this building."



York Town Crier photos by Nan Brown

Mar. 23,

TOWN CRIER,

## Heirlooms in the making

Quilts adorned walls, tables and racks at the York County Public Library Saturday, some almost 150 years old. Sue Rohrbach, above, shows off the quilt she made in one day in the pattern "Fields and Furrows." Rose Suttles of Seaford, far right, and Mary Crull of Williamsburg discuss freezer-paper applique.





# Exchange Club honors two county employees

YORKTOWN -- Assistant Librarian Elizabeth A. Pessagno and Deputy Sheriff Michael L. James have been named employees of the quarter by the Exchange Club of York for the second quarter this year.

Mrs. Pessagno's award is in the public service category and James' for contributions in the public safety category.

James came to work for the sheriff's department in 1974 as a custodial officer. Two years later he was promoted to deputy in field service.

James volunteered to represent the department in Virginia's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. The program began in 1987 and uses uniformed officers to visit fifth- and sixth-grade students to teach how to avoid using drugs.

After 120 hours of state police training at Longwood College, James began making rounds four days a week to county elementary schools with advice on resisting drug pressure from classmates.

Evaluations by teachers, also part of the program, "have been outstanding," says his boss, Sheriff P. S. Williams. "He is very dedicated to this program not only from the standpoint of law enforcement, but also as a concerned citizen and parent. He has done an outstanding job."

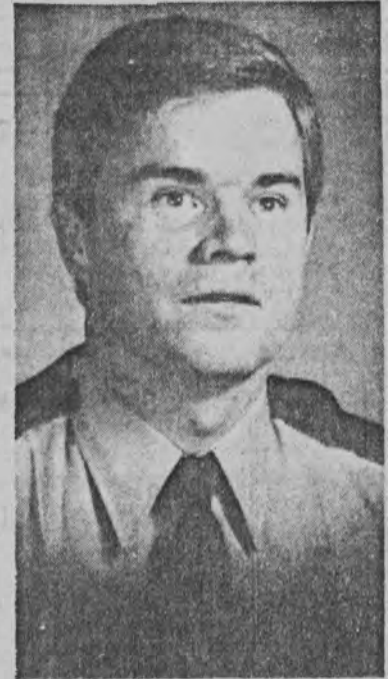
Elizabeth Pessagno "Has shown a remarkable interest in helping the public solve information needs," says her supervisor, Librarian Norma Colton.

Mrs. Pessagno, an assistant librarian in the reference section in York County Public Library, joined the library's staff in 1985.

Her conscientious service includes searching for information, often going beyond materials in the library. When necessary, she makes contacts throughout York County



Elizabeth A. Pessagno



Michael L. James

and Virginia to answer a patron's question. "Elizabeth gives her patrons quality service and also friendly service," said Ms. Colton. "Her sense of humor and general enjoyment of people is evident as she works with them."

One recent request sent Mrs. Pessagno "beyond the call of duty" to help a college student find a critique of a Robert Frost poem, desperately needed for a paper the student was writing. After searching through numerous volumes of literary criticism, Mrs. Pessagno

contacted the instructor and was informed that a reference librarian was a qualified source. Always willing to help the public, Mrs. Pessagno analyzed the poem and soon gave the student the needed critique.

"The patron was delighted! So were we," said Ms. Colton.

Employee of the quarter awards have been made by the Exchange Club since 1982 as part of the national organization's goals to promote excellence in local government and in political, social, religious, and business settings.



York Town Crier photos by Nan Brown



## The library's cool

Youngsters are keeping cool at the York County Public Library this summer. There are programs with stories, movies and games for all ages. At last week's session Missy Kendall, left, and Lauren Ferrell did a dry-land swim in time to the music. Patrick Warren, with a broken wrist, pretended to swing a Paul Bunyan axe.



*Crier 12/21/88*  
**Library installs  
security system**

The York County Public Library will be installing the Checkpoint Library Material Detection System. It will be installed in December and the process will continue for several months. This is an electronic radio frequency article surveillance system which detects the unauthorized removal of library materials.

The Checkpoint System is completely safe and harmless to the individual and their personal belongings. It will not erase or affect magnetic tapes, discs, film, etc. It is as harmless as the radio you listen to each day.

The Checkpoint System will detect materials through bags, briefcases, clothing, etc. The detection system will not alarm for most personal items carried through the system.

All persons entering the library are expected to exit through the Checkpoint Detection System.

The Library Board and the library's director, Mrs. Beverly Dudley, came to the decision to install a Materials Theft Detection System for many reasons, number one being the increasing number of materials missing.



York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown

## **Book donation**

Librarian Beverly Dudley accepts the "My Country 'Tis of Thee" history from Virginia Faison of the V.F.W. Post 960 Ladies' Auxiliary.

April 5, 1989

# Friends of the library

## Couple shares unusual talents with York County library

By VIRGINIA BIGGINS  
Staff Writer

**B**ecause they believe in supporting their community, Gene and Virginia Cervi and 41 others have volunteered their services for many years at the York County Public Library on Route 17.

Forty-three of the library volunteers will be honored April 11 during a meeting of the Friends of the York County Public Library.

Although the Cervis's dedication to volunteer work has been noted by a variety of Peninsula organizations, the couple don't feel they have done anything out of the ordinary.

"There are others who are more deserving," Virginia modestly says. "I don't think we should be singled out."

But, the Cervis have gone far beyond giving a few hours a week to the library, says June Smoot, who serves with her husband, Jack, as co-chairmen of the library support group.

"Gene has been responsible for all landscaping and numerous other (library) activities. He is currently teaching a driving class for senior adults at the library and has taught courses in Master Gardening," Smoot says.

Gene, who has been a member of the Friends of the York County Library for over a decade, believes volunteers are vital for many community programs. "Without volunteers, the library and other activities wouldn't be able to operate as fully or as efficiently. They would have to hire more people and

budgets often can't take the strain."

The York County resident thinks that it's important the spirit of volunteering be instilled among young people so they can pick up the torch and carry on.

"To be frank, I get a lot of personal satisfaction from my volunteer work. So, I don't see it as a one-way street," he says.

"Virginia Cervi, his wife, has been responsible for making decorations and decorating Christmas trees each year at the library. She has won several awards for her craft work and recipes. She volunteers several days a month at the library where she takes on a variety of jobs, from card indexing to filing and typing," Smoot says.

The volunteer says she also gets a lot of satisfaction from helping out in the library and believes more people should get involved.

Approximately 43 volunteers have contributed a total of 4,000 hours at the library. There are 25,000 registered members of the library who live in York County and surrounding communities.

"Volunteers giving only an hour a week would be a great asset at the library," says Virginia Cervi. "There is a need for volunteers to serve with the children's coordinator to help with bulletin boards; typing volunteers; volunteers to help plan programs for adults and younger people and volunteers to sit in the children's area at night. There is only one paid children's corner employee at the library for story hour, reader help and

■ Please see Library, Page

Cervi's dedication to York County Public Library ranges from teaching a senior adult driving class to making Christmas

Staff photo by BUDDY NORRIS

# Library

Continued from Page 1  
other needs of the youngsters."

Virginia says senior citizens make the best volunteers, because they have a lot of expertise in a variety of subjects.

The Cervis retired from business careers in 1981. She served as director of food services for the York County School system, and he retired from the civilian personnel directorate at Langley Air Force Base. Cervis is also a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

The couple have lived in York County for the past 25 years. He is a native of Beaver Falls, Pa., and she was born in Surry. They have two sons — Gene, who is a vice president in the trust department at the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Dick, an Air Force colonel assigned to the Pentagon.

Each believes that volunteer service in the community helps keep older people young.

"At our age, you need things to do. What better way than serving the community," Gene says.

"An awful lot of talent goes to waste in communities because people don't volunteer. When you serve as a volunteer you see what good has already been done by volunteers and it makes you want to do even more," says his wife.

Her major club affiliation is the Yorktown Woman's Club, which supports many community programs. She serves as co-editor of the club's newsletter and is a member of the Retired Teacher's Association. She is noted for her green thumb and is in charge of plants at the library.

The couple provided turf for landscaping at the library's newest facilities when they opened in 1984. "We provided a little bit of dirt, the Master Gardener organization did the bulk of the work," Gene says.

He is a member of the Master Gardener program on the Peninsula; an advisor on the board of the York County VPI Extension Office, a docent at the Mariners Museum, yards chairman of the Marlbank Recreation Association, a member

of the American Association of Retired Persons, and past president of the Friends of the York County Public Library.

Gene has also been nominated as volunteer of the year with the VPI Extension Office in York County, and volunteer of the year for York County Recreation Department.

The couple enjoy landscaping and gardening. There are more than 150 azalea plants, a large number of English boxwood, 25 pine trees, 18 dogwood trees, a rose garden and jonquils in their yard. Their plans are to plant 1,000 annuals early this spring.

Travel is high on the Cervis' list of things to do. They recently returned from a 15-day stay in Hawaii; their third trip there. Later in the spring, they will meet their children and four grandchildren in New York City for the family's second cruise to Bermuda.

They have explored Canada, Europe and some of our western states. They plan an extensive tour of the New England states in the near future.

YORK TOWN CRIER Apr. 5, 1989

## Medieval Fair fun for all

In celebration of National Library Week, April 9-15, the York County Public Library will sponsor a children's program with a medieval flair. This will be held Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. The program is for all children in grades 1-6, and registration is not necessary.

The program will feature entertainers, Rich Follett and Margaret Cubberly, the Minstrel and the Lady Faire. Their program will feature a combination of music and storytelling.

The duo has appeared at the Chrysler Museum and Waterside's Renaissance Faire, as well as schools, libraries and churches on the Peninsula.

Follett is a singer, songwriter

and actor who has performed for several years in the Tidewater area. He has recorded two albums of original music, "Heart of Glass" and "Modern Day Minstrel" and has appeared in concert at Christopher Newport College and acted in local productions.

Cubberly is a freelance writer and member of the Tidewater Reader's Ensemble.

Another storytelling program for grades 1-6 will be held Thursday, May 18. It will feature Alma McMath, a Norfolk elementary school and church librarian with extensive acting and play directing experience.

For more information about these programs, contact Sherry Inabinet at the library, 898-0077.



*Daily Press "Our Neighbors"*  
*Wed. Oct. 25, 1989*

# CITY/COUNTY

**Your neighbors**

## Answer lady



SCOTT DeMUESY/Staff photographer

Elizabeth Pessagno was asked about 10,000 questions last year in her job at the York County Public Library.

Elizabeth Pessagno uses only three words to describe her duties as reference librarian for the York County Public Library, "I answer questions."

She uses a lot of words to answer all the questions, however. The number of queries she received last year totaled about 10,000.

"People ask questions on just about anything," says Pessagno. "They want to know the address of a company, information about a business, even how to spell a word."

"Sometimes students will even call with questions about their homework."

Pessagno has been providing answers at the local library for more than four years. She averages 250 questions per week, but takes all of them seriously and does her best to provide the answers.

She had her first taste of being a reference librarian in the Houston, Texas, Public Library shortly after she finished college. She found she really enjoyed it because it gives her a chance to work with and help people.

**Pet peeve:** People who want us to do their homework for them.

**Hobbies:** Reading, biking, camping.

**Foods:** Hamburgers, Mexican, Thai.

**Vacation spots:** The mountains.

**TV programs:** "Mystery" on PBS; nature specials.

**Radio station:** WHRO, WKEZ, WFOG.

**Movies:** "Witness," "Dirty Dancing."

**Magazines:** "Southern Living."

**Books:** Mystery, fantasy.

**Music:** Anything from Brahms to Crystal Gayle.

**Family:** Husband, John; married 15 years.

**Hometown:** Born in El Dorado, Ark. Peninsula resident for four years.

**What makes me tick:** Working with people.

**Turning point in my life:** Meeting and marrying my husband.

**Greatest feat:** Answering as many questions as I do.

**Greatest asset:** I'm a good listener and I try to relate well to people.

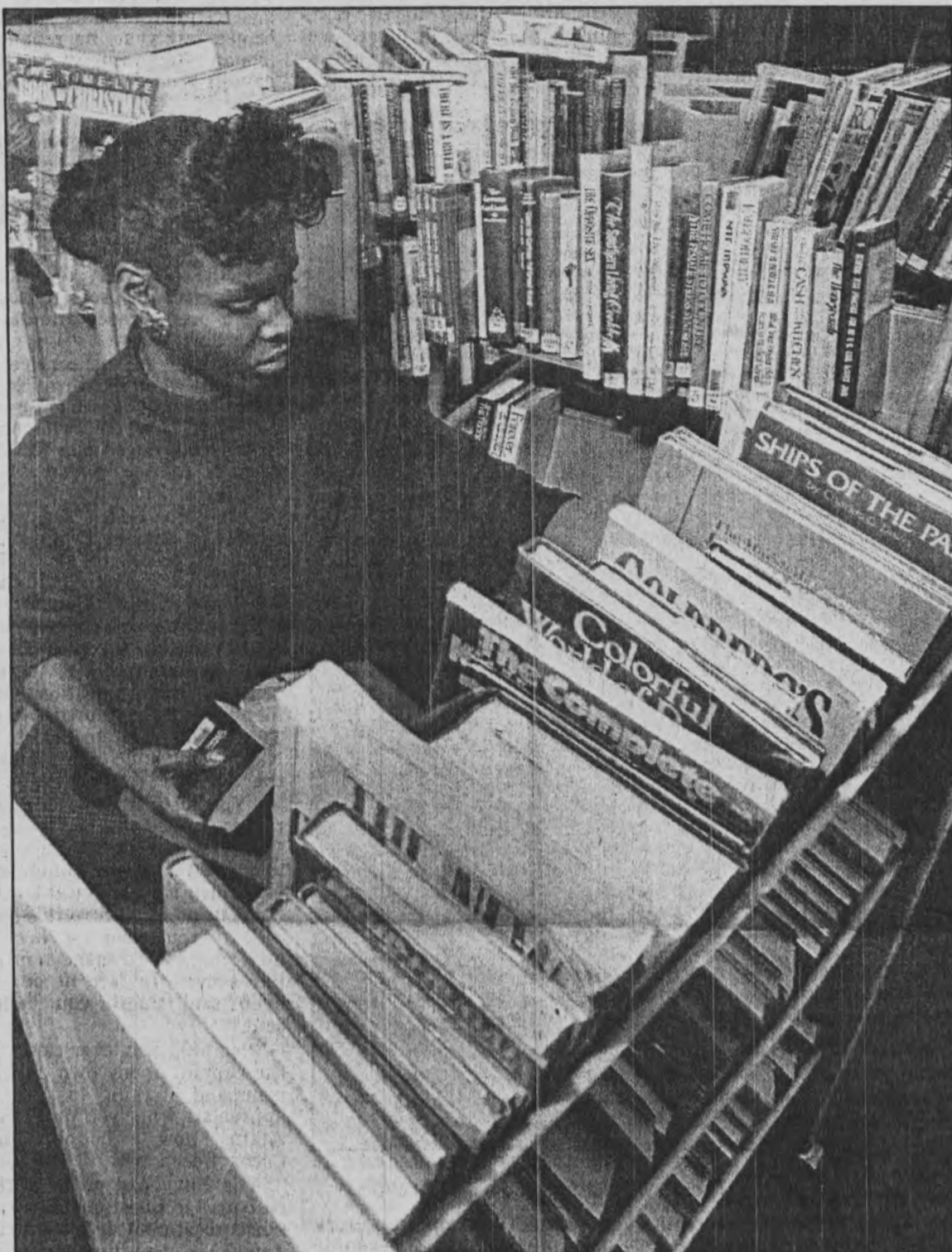
**Favorite cause:** Literacy.

**Worst fear:** I have a lot of them; I'm a worrier.

**Bad habit:** I have a temper sometimes.







BUDDY NORRIS/Staff photographer

Denise Cann, 16, a volunteer, shelves books at the York library. The library has 50,000 books.

## Library feels growing pains

### Director to face York board with expansion plans

By **DAVID RISSE**  
Staff Writer

**YORK** — If all the books owned by the county library were returned at the same time, York's librarians would not have enough shelves to put them on.

Library Director Beverly Dudley has asked for an expansion of the existing library and for a branch facility in the Tabb area for several years but has been turned down by the Board of Supervisors.

The supervisors, citing the need to build fire stations, schools and other facilities, reluctantly have refused to add the two projects to the county's capital improvements budget.



Dudley is asking again this year.

"We're already behind, and at the rate the county is growing, it's not going to get any better," she said.

Half of the York residents who live in the area served by the library live in Tabb, but only 15 percent of the library's patrons come from Tabb, according to membership rolls and surveys conducted at the library.

And the Tabb area is growing faster than any other area of the county.

"We get phone call after phone call from people in the Tabb area wondering where we are. When they find out, they ask if there is a closer branch."

The library is located on Route 17 near Yorktown.

Students who need to do school work at the library manage to make the 10-mile journey from Tabb, Dudley said.

"It's the people who want to pick up a few books for reading... Those are the people we don't get."

In addition, the current library has less space and fewer books than it should, according to standards set by the State Library Board, Dudley said.

The library should have two books for each resident it serves, according to the board. The library has 50,000 books and serves about 32,000 "lower county" residents.

Residents of the "upper county" north of the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station are served by the Williamsburg Regional Library.

The York library also should be 50 percent larger, according to another state standard. It has about 12,000 square feet.

Dudley has requested a 50-percent expansion, which would cost about \$560,000. The cost of a 6,500-square-foot Tabb branch, including the purchase of land, has been estimated at about \$800,000.

The supervisors will debate capital expenditures during the next few months as they put together a five-year capital budget.

"A few people are very interested in a library in the Tabb area, and I'm certainly one of them," said Supervisor Jere Mills, who represents the Tabb area.

People also are interested in better drainage, extension of sewer service and many other items that must be balanced against the need for a new library branch, Mills said.

The purchase of land in Tabb for a library branch and a larger

parking lot at the central library already are planned for fiscal year 1992.

Dudley wants the expansion built in fiscal year 1993 and the Tabb branch built in fiscal year 1994. She would like to start a "storefront" branch in Tabb immediately.

A storefront branch in a Tabb shopping center would give the county an indication of the need for a complete Tabb branch, Mills said.

"That's what we did the first time," said Mills, referring to the existing York library, which was built in 1984 to replace a library in Grafton Shopping Center.

Dudley, a former teacher, began her library career in the early 1970s in a York library run by volunteers in a house near the miniature golf course on Route 17.

That library was replaced by the storefront library and later the current facility.

"Everybody is really proud of this library," Dudley said. The county should enlarge it and build a Tabb branch "in a reasonable, timely fashion before we have to expand the walls."

# 'Friends' want to see library branch out

By Doreen Farah Nadolny  
Town Crier Staff

**GRAFTON** -- York County's Friends of the Library is a group that accomplishes more than you'd think.

"We're a large group, but I guess we are not very active," said June Smoot, who is co-president with her husband Jack, of the Friends of the Library.

"We don't hold regular meetings. We just seem to get together when something needs to be done."

The Friends of the Library are volunteers whose purpose is to support the library and help fund projects which may not be in the library's budget. In 12 years of service to the community the Friends, which now number close to 300, have accomplished quite a bit.

Among other contributions, they've supplied visual aid equipment, video equipment, a computer, coat racks and children's furniture to the library. Every year they buy Christmas trees to decorate the library.

"Basically, when the librarian needs something, she'll let us know and then we'll meet to try to solve the problem," says Smoot.

Membership dues, donations and their annual used book sale in November provide the bulk for the Friends' funds.

"We'll buy books, or anything the library needs. Once we even designed stationery for the library and had it printed," she said.

From time to time they have provided entertainment at the library for children, and have a summer children's party. Every



**Katherine Gregory uses library resources**  
This computer was donated by the Friends of the Library

spring they sponsor an appreciation celebration for all those volunteers who work at the library throughout the year.

Having helped to establish the York County Library at its current location is

something the Friends of the Library take pride in.

"Of course the library board and the county did a lot, but we were instrumental in providing publicity and helping to get

the move on the ballot," said Smoot.

The volunteers' next project is just as challenging. The Friends would like to see a library branch in Tabb in the future.

"It is just so far for people in Tabb to drive to go to the library. If the county (board of supervisors) and the library board favor the branch, the friends will do all they can to support that idea and work towards that goal," said Smoot.

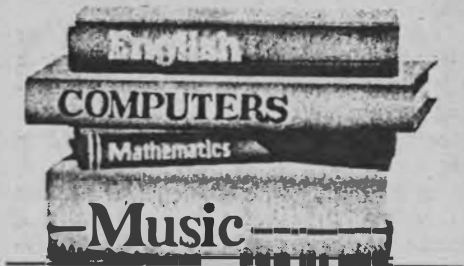
Right now the Friends are trying to drum up interest in opening a new branch. June Smoot would like to see more young parents active in their group.

"Libraries are so important to young children. It would be great if their parents could help, but I do realize those are the busy years."

Smoot reflected on a statement she made earlier.

"I know I said we are not active, but after talking about it, I guess we are active!"

Members of the community who are interested in becoming a 'Friend' of the library, or just helping should call June or Jack Smoot at 898-7486.



# Points of light enhance York County

By Beth Melsner  
Town Crier Staff

Young and old, male and female, black, white and native American, they are all "points of light."

Last year York County benefited from the time and talent of hundreds of volunteers who all worked toward the single goal of making life a little bit better for people who call this area home.

"I get excited every time I figure up the totals," Suzanne Ford, county volunteer coordinator said. The numbers are in on 1989, and it was "a good year," Ford said with an appreciative smile.

Those numbers are impressive. Last year 1,368 volunteers contributed 47,373 hours in direct service to the York County government and its offices. That translates into almost half a million dollars worth of services York's government and citizens received without having to spend any tax dollars in the effort.

Volunteers provided the equivalent of 28 full-time staffers and provided services worth \$455,254.53 according to the Virginia Department of Volunteerism's analysis. The department bases its interpretation of the monetary value of volunteerism on a 1,700 hour year and an hourly wage of \$9.61.

While the monetary value of all these hours makes for good reading, it's the services performed which are really important, Ford noted. Volunteers crop up in all kinds of places doing all kinds of jobs, she said.

"We rarely succeed at anything unless we have fun doing it," a sign in Ford's

office reads. She coordinates the successful efforts of hundreds of people who obviously enjoy what they're doing.

One hundred and fifty volunteers served on county boards and commissions last year. People with an interest in everything from the public library to wetlands can find an opportunity to contribute. Last year the Historical/Bicentennial Commission, the Beautification Committee and the Industrial Development Board were the most active, Ford said.

In 1989, 430 individuals served as soccer, basketball and baseball coaches in the ever growing, ever popular Department of Parks and Recreation programs. Another 135 volunteers contributed time and expertise to programs sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service Office. During 1989 these individuals participated in horticulture, home economics and 4-H programs, Ford said.

Head Start, the Department of Public Safety and the Housing office each had 50 or more volunteers working last year. Their jobs included producing a monthly newsletter, classroom work, fire fighting and a joint public and private neighborhood revitalization. The York County Social Services Department, the public library and the county's General Services Department each had more than 30 volunteers who did everything from driving to bookbinding to drafting.

"They all feel they're making a meaningful contribution," Ford said. Her totals reflect regular and single occasion volunteers, and include two individuals who contributed over 500 hours each during

1989, Ford said.

All those contributions add up to significant service to York County's residents. And as high as the numbers are, they're only a fraction of the total volunteer hours given each year.

The county's totals include only those people and hours which supplement the government of the County of York. They don't include volunteers in schools or in civic, social or religious organizations who dedicate their hours to community service.

The "thousand points of light," in the form of volunteers, are alive and well and shining brightly for the citizens of York County.

And while she can't speak for other organizations, Ford expects more of the same on behalf of the County during 1990. Volunteers will be throwing a "grand opening" when York begins its recycling operations at the landfill later this year, she said. There are landscaping projects in the planning stages, and there's more work to be done in the Commonwealth Attorney's office and the Commissioner of the Revenue's office. And there are school beautification projects, Earth Day, and ...



York Town Crier photo by Nan Brown Maxwell

**Book mending at the York County Library**  
Volunteer Jean Smith instructs Rilla Terry on the task











Men's Craft Show  
of 1989



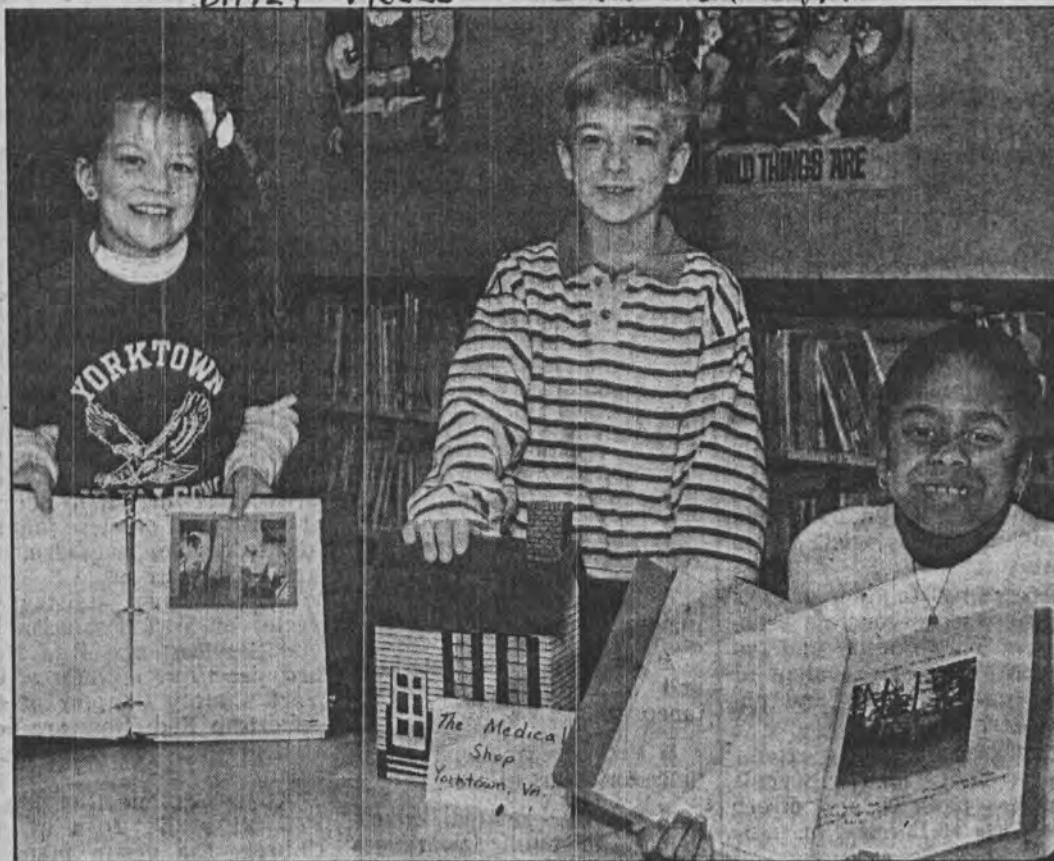


DAILY MIRROR

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RANSY MORR/Staff photographer

## Creative learning

Yorktown Elementary School students show off projects they created and which are now on display at Yorktown Public Library. Their teacher, Cindy MacPherson, assigned the projects as a way to help her students find out more about their community. Her third-grade class was covering a social studies unit in their textbook about communities. MacPherson, who has 22 students, says she thought they would learn better through experience, and asked them to find places and sites in the area they could do a project on. Some built models of existing businesses or reports with pictures of themselves by historical sites, as shown above by, from left, Erin Tierney, Bryan Wise and Erika Lowe. Others drew pictures or made posters. "Kids learn in different ways," says MacPherson. The class projects will be on display at the library until Jan. 30.